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Agenda items 21 (c) and 39
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 8 October 1996 from the representatives of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of a joint statement made on 4 October 1996 by the leaders of the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan concerning developments in Afghanistan, in which they propose that a special meeting of the Security Council should be held without delay, with the participation of interested countries, with a view to adopting urgent measures to halt the fighting and achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghan conflict, and to arrange for the provision by the international community of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population and refugees.

We should be grateful if you would bring this proposal to the attention of the Security Council, and circulate the text of this letter and its annex as a

document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 21 (c) and 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakstan to
the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to
the United Nations

(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Tajikistan to
the United Nations

(Signed) A. VOHIDOV
Acting Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Uzbekistan to
the United Nations

(Signed) Z. ESHMAMBETOVA
Permanent Representative of
the Kyrgyz Republic to
the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint declaration made on 4 October 1996 by the leaders of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan concerning developments in Afghanistan

We, the participants in the Almaty meeting, having exchanged views on developments in Afghanistan, express our serious concern at the expansion and intensification of the armed confrontation in Afghanistan, which has claimed countless victims among the civilian population and caused a new wave of refugees and displaced persons. The executions and the brutal murder of former President Najibullah have increased tension and brought Afghanistan to the brink of a national disaster and the collapse of the Afghan State.

The flames of war are coming nearer to the borders of countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), posing a direct threat to the national interests and security of these States and the Commonwealth as a whole, and destabilizing the situation in the region and the world.

We declare that any actions that undermine stability on the borders between Afghanistan and CIS States are inadmissible. Such actions, regardless of their perpetrators, shall be deemed a threat to the common interests of CIS States and, on the basis of the Treaty on Collective Security, signed at Tashkent on 15 May 1992, will meet with an appropriate response. The participants in the meeting appeal to the Commonwealth's Collective Security Council to consider, as a matter of urgency, the situation that has arisen on the southern borders of CIS and to take the necessary measures to strengthen the security of the Commonwealth's external borders.

We appeal to the Afghan parties to the conflict, first of all the Taliban, to call an immediate halt to hostilities and begin to seek ways of achieving national accord. It is time to end the war in Afghanistan, which has been dragging on for years. An obligatory condition must be the non-interference by foreign elements in the internal affairs of sovereign Afghanistan and the preservation of that country's territorial integrity.

We propose that a special meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations should be held without delay, with the participation of interested countries, with a view to adopting urgent measures to halt the fighting and achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghan conflict, and to arrange for the provision by the international community of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population and refugees.